

## MYSTERY SURROUNDS CAUSE OF NEW YORK BLASTS— DEATHS MAY REACH 40

New York, July 31.—Mystery still surrounds real cause of explosion and fire which early Sunday morning occurred on Black Tom Island. Whether a fire starting on the barge loaded with nitro-cellulose or ignition of four freight cars loaded with high explosives was the exact cause never will be known.

Condition of the area of devastation made it impossible today to examine the scene of the first terrific impacts. Flames were still flaring from the wreckage of railroad cars and warehouses.

Dead, missing and injured were mere estimates up to noon today. Only two known dead were marked down. Twenty-five others are missing and 110 are known to have been injured.

Estimates of property damage run all the way from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000. Shattered glass alone in Jersey City, Brooklyn, Manhattan and a dozen surrounding cities and hamlets is estimated at over a million dollars.

Four separate investigations started today by the railroad companies, Jersey City authorities, the state and the federal government.

Jersey City, July 31.—On charges of "criminal and gross negligence" two men were to be arraigned today for their alleged part in the \$19,000,000 explosion on Black Tom peninsula. They were Albert M. Dickman, Lehigh Valley railroad agent, whose station was Black Tom island, and Alexander Davidson, sup't of National Storage Co.'s warehouses on the piers.

Warrant for the arrest of Theodore H. Johnson, pres. Johnson Lighterage Co., was issued, but service on him has not yet been obtained. Johnson and Davidson are charged with negligence in permitting a tug to tie a barge loaded with dangerous

explosives to the pier. Dickman is charged with permitting box cars loaded with high explosives to be placed on a railroad siding in a position where danger from fire or explosion was great. The three men are specifically charged with causing the death of Capt. Cornelius Leyden of the Lehigh Valley's railway police, one of the victims of the explosion.

New York, July 31.—Miss Liberty's gown was torn a little and some of her skin punctured by shrapnel bullets—but the famous statue on Bedloe's island today was found to be surprisingly free from injury, considering its location less than a mile from Black Tom peninsula. Many freakish incidents were reported here and elsewhere.

The main door giving entrance to the Statue of Liberty was wrenched off its hinges as by a giant hand; the iron cover to a powder magazine was torn away; all doors were crushed in and probably a hundred bolts joining the plates which compose the giant figure were broken or sheared off.

Policeman Henry Doherty, patrolling the water front in Jersey City found himself in the water, with every stitch of his clothing stripped from him except a sort of breech cloth.

Charles Cutler, bargeman, was hurled high into the air and landed safely and softly in a car of borax.

Immigrants at Ellis Island were thankful for what was apparently a rain of heavy sheep skin lined overcoats. Nobody knows where they came from.

Not a solitary window in the 12-story building occupied by the New York Plate Glass Insurance Company, which will have to pay millions in insurance for smashed windows in and around New York, was broken although those in nearly every building around were shattered.

A janitor in a building far down town forgot to close windows in the structure, when he left Saturday